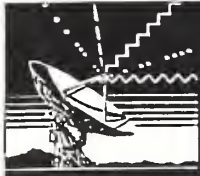


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# Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2722

July 14, 1995

**A DROP IN CROP PRODUCTION** -- In their latest crop production report, USDA analysts are forecasting production drops in wheat, oats, tobacco and potato crops. Wheat production is expected to drop to 2.19 billion bushels -- the lowest level since 1991 and a 3 percent decline from a year ago. Also, wheat yields are expected to fall to 35.9 bushels per acre -- down 1.7 from a year ago. USDA analysts are predicting a drop in oats production from almost 230 million bushels in 1994 to 181,500 million bushels this year. Average yield is forecast to fall to less than 56 bushels per acre. Barley production is expected to rise slightly, to more than 378 million bushels. Flue cured tobacco production will probably drop from 869 million pounds to less than 825 million, with yield per acre falling from 2400 pounds to 2088 pounds. Summer potato production could also drop from a total of 22 million hundredweight to less than 17 million hundredweight. **Contact: Stephen Ropel (202) 720-3843.**

**RAW WASTE IS RISKY FEED** -- Pigs may eat just about anything, but they shouldn't be fed everything. A recent USDA study evaluating waste-feeding practices revealed that feeding raw waste to swine can spread foreign animal diseases and pathogens of public health concern. Although the Swine Health Protection Act of 1980 prohibits feeding raw garbage to swine, individuals can get a license through USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to feed waste to swine as long as it is heat treated. In 1993, APHIS' Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) began evaluating disease risks associated with feeding untreated waste materials to swine. The CEAH found household or plate waste to be the food source with the greatest risk for transmitting foreign disease pathogens to swine because it is more likely to contain contraband food materials of animal origin. **Contact: Larry Mark (202) 720-3977.**

**USDA UPDATING IMPORT REGULATIONS** -- In an effort to update fruit and vegetable import regulations, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials are proposing a change in those regulations. The proposal would clarify the procedures by which an importer is notified about required cleaning, disinfection or disposal of fruits and vegetables. The updated regulations would also clarify responsibility of the owners of fruits and vegetables for carrying out those actions. Comments must be received by September 11. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 734-3256.**

**MORE NOXIOUS WEEDS** -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has two new additions to its list of noxious weeds. Tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*) and duck lettuce (*Ottelia alismoides*) are now part of the list making them susceptible to rules designed to prevent the artificial spread of noxious weeds into noninfested areas. Also, the list has been expanded to include seeds of all weeds listed in the federal noxious weed regulations. This should help prevent entry of any agricultural shipments containing noxious weed seeds. These changes become effective on August 11, 1995. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 734-3256.**

**MORE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM** -- To start or expand school breakfast programs in 31 states and the Virgin Islands, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is awarding \$3 million in federal grants. USDA's School Breakfast Program serves breakfast in more than 60,000 schools. Participation in the program has grown by more than 50 percent since 1990. School breakfast start-up grants are authorized by the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994, which includes funding for school breakfast expansion and summer food service programs. Grants are awarded on the basis of need, number of children who could be added to the program, feasibility and cost effectiveness of the school districts' proposals. **Contact: Murray Rapp (703) 305-2039.**

**HIGH PRAISE FOR FOOD SAFETY** -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman is praising the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adopting principles to ensure internationally traded food products are safe and wholesome. At their annual meeting in Rome, the Codex Commission approved standards for the use of several growth promotants in cattle, along with standards on food practices. Of the decision, Glickman said, "Trade in agricultural products is being impeded more and more frequently by sanitary and phytosanitary regulations that are, in fact, nothing more than disguised non-tariff barriers. The decision by the Codex Commission will prevent such practices." Founded in 1962 by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization, the Commission serves as the international standard-setting body for food. **Contact: Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2032.**

**FOR SAFER FOOD, GRAB A THERMOMETER** -- An increasing number of calls to USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline about using food thermometers prompted food safety personnel to look into the matter. Hotline personnel conducted a survey to find out how many people used food thermometers. Acting Director of the Hotline Bessie Berry says survey results indicate only 50 percent of consumers use food thermometers and only 25 percent use them on all meats. Most common reasons for not using thermometers were: consumers didn't have one, never used one or didn't think they needed to use one. To make sure that meat, poultry and egg products are cooked to a safe temperature, Berry says food thermometers should be used every time those products are cooked. For more information about safe cooking temperatures and how to use food thermometers properly, call USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. **Contact: Susan Conley (202) 720-7943.**

**KING TAKES REINS OF USDA AGENCY** -- Lonnie J. King has been named administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). King will head the agency responsible for 42 domestic programs and will oversee an international cadre of professionals who promote agricultural trade. APHIS also plays a vital role in forming animal welfare legislation and managing wildlife resources. King had been serving as acting APHIS administrator and he worked as a private veterinarian for seven years until beginning his government career in 1977. **Contact: Cynthia A. Eck (301) 734-5931.**

**COMING HOME TO THE INTERNET** -- USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) now has a "home page" on the Internet's World Wide Web. This should make it easier for farmers, ranchers, processors and exporters to use FAS service and trade information. The FAS home page is linked to USDA's home page and the address for its new home is: <http://www.usda.gov/fas>. **Contact: Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 720-3930.**

## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA # 1989** -- Is bigger better when it comes to hog farming? In this edition of Agriculture USA, Gary Crawford looks at hog industry changes that are causing concern, especially those involving giant, factory-like hog production facilities. (Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).

**CONSUMER TIME # 1468** -- Updating dietary guidelines. New consumer products from farms. The importance of using food thermometers for food safety. Fire ants are losing their heads. New anti-flea technology. (Weekly cassette -- consumer features).

**AGRITAPE FEATURES # 1981** -- Systematic testing of cotton. The 1995 Farm Bill and the dairy industry. Mexican farm programs. A cucumber of a different color. Cotton and soybean producers get help from friendly fungus in fighting costly crop disease. (Weekly cassette -- news features).

**UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Tuesday, July 18, weekly weather and crops. Wednesday, July 19, farm production expenditures for 1994; Europe update. Thursday, July 20, agricultural outlook. Friday, July 21, cattle on feed; livestock slaughter; sheep; agricultural trade update. Monday, July 24, livestock, dairy and poultry. Tuesday, July 25, weekly weather and crops. Thursday, July 27, tobacco world markets and trade. Friday, July 28, catfish production; farm numbers and land in farms. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**

**COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545**

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**ACTUALITIES** -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman on impact of proposed delay to modernizing meat and poultry inspection, about issues in 1995 Farm Bill and impact of proposed block grants on food stamp program. USDA Under Secretary Ellen Haas on the impact of block grants on food stamp program. USDA World Board Chairman Gerald Bange on the latest world supply and demand situation for crops. USDA meteorologist Bob Stefanski on weather and crops.

**FEATURES** -- DeBoria Janifer reports on ways visitors can help prevent forest fires.

**UPCOMING** -- Patrick O'Leary reports on USDA's "home page" on the Internet's World Wide Web and Lynn Wyvill reports on research that will help forecast water supplies for farmers in the West.

**ATTENTION BROADCASTERS:** There are some satellite changes in next week's television newsfeed. Please make a note of them.

Thursday, July 20, 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. ET. Telstar 401, Transponder 16, Channel 16, Downlink Frequency 4020 MHZ, Audio 6.2 and 6.8. Monday, July 24, 11:00 to 11:15 a.m. ET. Galaxy 4, Channel 12, Downlink Frequency 3940 MHZ, Audio 6.2 and 6.8.

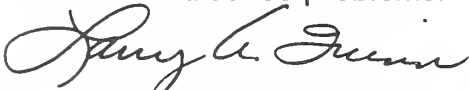
## OFF MIKE

**CURBSIDE RECYCLING**...is not something that agribusinesses usually handle, but **Tom Peterson** (WRAM/WMOI, Monmouth, IL) says that recently Monmouth Grain and Dryer was the low bidder to take over management of the local recycling center. There may be a tie to agriculture because the center has experimented in the past with using recycled newspapers for animal bedding. Tom produces local features and uses our Agritape stories in his regular air time five days per week. He's been their farm broadcaster for the past four of his eight years there.

**CUSS THE MUD**...not the rain is a frequently used phrase in Montana where rainfall totals only reach 12 inches annually. **Brent Stanghelle** (KMON, Great Falls, MT) says they have enjoyed more rain this spring than usual and that 80 percent of wheat and barley crops are in the good to excellent category. Local officials were glad to welcome Deputy Secretary **Richard Rominger** to their recent "Fields of Tomorrow" event held just north of Joplin, MT. It was co-sponsored by his station and an agribusiness company. Brent hosts half-hour morning and noon shows and voices reports at 35 minutes past the hour throughout the day.

**NATIONAL MEDIA AWARD**...was presented to **Jack Crouner** (Kentucky Ag Network, Louisville, KY) last week by the United Soybean Board at a ceremony in St. Louis, MO. Jack says crops in his area look pretty good because corn was planted before all the rains came. An increasing number of farmers there plant soybeans right in the stubble of harvested wheat and barley fields. About half of their soybean acreage is grown that way.

**100 DEGREE TEMPERATURES**...for the first time in four years, were in their second day in southeast Nebraska when we spoke to **Dave Anderson** (KZEN, Central City, NE) who was filling in for vacationing **Gary Wulf**. Soaring temperatures are drying out their wet spring. Wheat harvest in the area is only 15% complete, usually 40% by this time. Yields are lower than usual with some disease problems.



**LARRY A. QUINN, Director**  
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